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Talking Points for the DCI
(15 September 1983)

LEBANON: Current Situation

Military Developments

The situation in Lebanon remains stable with the Lebanese Armed Forces in firm control of the ridgeline from Alayh to Ad-Damur.

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[redacted] a Druze/leftist attack is planned on Bikfayya, President Gemayel's hometown.

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-- We consider a major attack unlikely, although shelling or a diversionary attack to put pressure on the Gemayel government is possible. [redacted]

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Today's overflights of the Beirut area by Lebanese Air Force Hawker Hunter jets demonstrate an additional capability possessed by the Lebanese Armed Forces.

-- Although the airpower represented by these planes will not turn the tables decisively against the Druze, their use would probably raise LAF morale.

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The Druze are tightening their grip on the Christian town of Dayr al Qamar and reportedly intend to attack the town soon.

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-- They believe a Palestinian force is in the town. [REDACTED]

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The Soviets have sent two IL-38 reconnaissance and antisubmarine warfare aircraft to Syria, probably temporarily.

-- [REDACTED]
probably intended as a signal to the US and President Assad of Soviet support for Syria. [REDACTED]

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Political Developments

Prince Bandar is in Damascus today for what he again describes as a "final" attempt to obtain a ceasefire agreement. The main sticking point in negotiations is the Syrian and Druze demand that the Lebanese Army not be deployed to the Alayh and Shuf region.

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-- Gemayel is unlikely to agree to this Syrian "concession." [REDACTED]

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SUBJECT: Talking Points for the DCI

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